



LAKEFRONT ORCHARD

Roger and Sandra Hodgson, 6 Soren Petersen Road, Omak, WA. 98841
phone (509) 826-2307, fax (509) 826-2851 email: shodgson@bossig.com

November 3, 2005

Farm Bill Forum

The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers, along with the challenges facing the old farmers and ranchers in Okanogan County, Washington, are in my opinion, obtaining operating loans, funds for capital expenditures, and help with natural disasters.

Most commercial lenders in Okanogan County are reluctant to finance farmers and ranchers, so our source of financing becomes our local Farm Service Agency, located in Okanogan, WA., which I believe receives its funding from the annual Farm Bill's. This funding should not be reduced, but should be increased to reflect our rising costs of production.

Also two Farm Service Agency regulations that should be changed are the number of years a producer is eligible to receive loan funds, this limitation should be removed along with the \$200,000 limit on total loan amounts, which should be raised. In addition funding for disaster programs should remain, to cover our losses from events we have no control over.

I do hope you will take into consideration the above comments.

Roger Hodgson

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA

2005 NOV 10 P 2:17